

while the resting-places of the dead in so many cases remain perfect: of these the most remarkable are the Pyramids of Egypt, which, in size, are proportionate to the length of the reign of the king whom they were intended to entomb. Of the base of the great pyramid some idea may be formed from Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, the area of which is about equal to the site of the pyramid of Cheops. Mr. Godwin closed his lecture with a detailed description of Egyptian architectural remains, and on Thursday the 6th of February the subject will be concluded with an account of modern architecture. He has contrived to render the subject deeply interesting and popular.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

JAN. 11.—HENRY HALLAM, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

Albert Way, Esq., director, exhibited a rubbing from a very fine foreign sepulchral brass, now in the hands of Mr. Pratt of Bond-street. It came from a family chapel in Germany or Flanders, and represents Ludovic Corteville and his lady.

Mr. Doubleday, of the British Museum, exhibited a small oval seal (in sulphur) inscribed S. MAG'RI SIMONIS LANGTON, and bearing a finely-executed head, which may be supposed to be the portrait of its owner, Simon Langton, Archdeacon of Canterbury, and brother to the Archbishop, Stephen Langton. He founded a hospital for poor priests at Canterbury circ. 1243.

Mr. Doubleday also exhibited plaster casts of the seal of King Charles the Second for the counties of Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke. The obverse has the King's effigy on a horseback, and the legend CAROLUS II. DEI GRACIA MAX. BRITANNIAE FRANCIE ET HIBERNIAE REX FIDELI PROTECTOR. The obverse has the arms of France and England quarterly, quartering Scotland and Ireland; supporters, the dragon and the spotted panther. Above the shield a crown, and below a plume of three ostrich feathers, and the motto IEN DIEN. Legend, SIG. PRO DANIELABIA PRO COMITATU CARMARATHEN CARDIGAN ET PEMBROK.

Two coloured drawings were exhibited by Mr. W. Beak, of Romano-Insular parentage, the one preserved in the park of Earl Bathurst, the other in the garden of Mr. Brewin of Cirencester.

J. Y. Akerman, Esq., F.S.A., communicated a note in illustration of a representation of the head of St. John the Baptist on a leaden ounce or ornament found at Abbotsleigh; he noticed the analogy between the figure of the head and that of the coin of King John, and gave instances of the veneration in which the head of the saint was held in the middle ages.

Sir Henry Ellis read a very interesting report of the seizure and examination of a Jesuit under the disguise of a Puritan in the reign of Elizabeth, singularly illustrative of the Machiavellian doctrines and practices of that order, and the activity of the Jesuit missionaries in England at that time.

He then concluded the reading of the translation, by George Stephens, Esq., (author of the Translation of Frithiof's Saga from the Swedish), of "The King of Birds, or the Lay of the Phoenix," an Anglo-Saxon song of the Tenth or Eleventh century, translated into the metre and aliteration of the original; it followed by a description, by the same gentleman, of an English medical manuscript, apparently of the end of the fourteenth century, preserved at Stockholm.

JAN. 18.—Lord Viscount MAISON, M.P., in the chair.

John Brindley Berge, Esq., was elected a Fellow of the Society.

Albert Way, Esq., director, exhibited a combination of several prints from Mr. J. O. Nichol's "Specimens of Eneustic Tiles," shewing the effect of the wall-tiles with which the church of Great Malvern was formerly ornamented, in the manner of wainscoting, and many of which still remain in the pavement. They are rendered more interesting by bearing a date, the 26th Henry VI.

W. R. Hamilton, Esq., V.P., made a communication relative to various ancient weapons, found in the bed of the Thames, immediately above Kingston, seven feet below a bed of

gravel. They were chiefly of brass metal and cast, and therefore supposed to be Roman.

Mr. Way contributed some further observations on the leaden ornament bearing the head of John the Baptist, exhibited at the previous meeting of the society. It appears that the head of John the Baptist was preserved among the relics at Amiens, and that it was a favourite object of pilgrimage; and Mr. Way gave strong reasons for believing that these leaden ounces, which evidently represent the ferretary, or keeper of the shrine, exhibiting the head, attended by his two acolytes, were given to pilgrims, who carried them about their persons as amulets to protect them from the disease of epilepsy, or the falling evil (*le mal de Saint Jean, or morbus Sancti Johannis*), which that saint was believed to have the power of curing.

Thomas Wright, Esq., F.S.A., communicated a mediæval list of engraved gems, with descriptions of the magical virtues they were believed to possess; and an introductory essay on the excavations and researches for antiquities by the monks in the middle ages. The Anglo-Saxons appear to have been assiduous in opening ancient tombs, and digging among ruins, and in this manner they collected together great numbers of Roman articles. The ancient Christian rituals contain forms for blessing vases and other vessels dug up from the earth, in order to render them fit for Christian use. A curious account is given in the early lives of the Abbots of St. Alban's, of the extensive excavations made by two abbots in the tenth century among the ruins of Verulamium, and of the numerous curiosities they found. Among these curiosities there were many engraved stones. There were numerous collections of engraved gems in the middle ages, and many instances were cited. The virtues attributed to these articles are strange enough. One is stated to have the quality of rendering the bearer liable to be frequently invited out to dinner, and to be much feared; another to make the bearer inviolable; and so on with the rest.

JAN. 25.—HENRY HALLAM, Esq., V.P.

Mons. Edouard Frere, of Rouen, and Mons. Lechevalier d'Anlay, of Caen (the associate of the late Marquis de St. Marie in "Recherches sur l'Architecture d'Anglo-Normandie") were elected Foreign Members of the Society.

The Directors exhibited a large plate, printed in chromo-lithography, for Mons. Dusommerard's *Histoire des Arts du Moyen Age*, of the enamelled tablet of Geoffrey le Bel (Plantagenet), at Mans (which was engraved in a smaller scale by the late C. A. Stothard.)

Mr. Rogers exhibited an Etruscan instrument of bronze in the form of a small pair of force-tongs, fitted with two little wheels.

Albert Way, Esq., Director, exhibited a deed now in the possession of Richard Almack, Esq., of Long Melford, being a lease of the Rectory of Bedford, in the year 1570 to Sir William Cecil, afterwards Lord Burghley, of a pasture at the east end of Covent Garden, on the site of which Lord Burghley afterwards erected his town mansion. Mr. Way made some remarks upon the description of the boundaries of the land, in which mud walls and "stulps, or rails," are mentioned.

Sir Henry Ellis, Secretary, communicated three historical documents: 1. A note of the good uses to which the Companies of London applied their grants of Chantry Lands, which it appears they purchased of the Crown to the extent of 18,744. 2. A letter written in 1588 by Sir William Bennett, priest, to the Earl of Arundel, begging his forgiveness for having charge "against the Earl which had been extorted from him, in the effect that the Earl had ordered a mass of the Holy Ghost for the good success of the Spanish fleet, and offering to deny the same at all hazards. 3. A statement of Affairs Ecclesiastical in Guernsey and Jersey in the time of James the First, describing the innovation of the Book of Common Prayer, and the place upon the island of French Protestants who came to the channel islands after the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and substituted a Book of Discipline of their own. The memoir proceeded to recommend a restoration of the liturgy, and the appointment of a Dean of Jersey, both which prayers were shortly after granted.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

JAN. 24.—T. L. Donaldson, V.P., in the chair.—A communication was read from Dr. Bromet, relative to the New Bridge lately erected over the River Maine, at Clifton, near Nantes, in Brittany.—The river runs in a deep ravine, is at all times shallow and consequently unnavigable, and is seldom frozen. In the design of the structure, it was necessary for the architect to consider it less as a bridge than as a viaduct for the more easy passage of the ravine. The length of the bridge between the abutments is about 350 English feet, the width of the carriage-road and two footways together, 27 feet, making the entire width, including the thickness of the parapet walls, 30 feet. The arches are fifteen in number, of 19 feet 4 inches span, and of a semicircular form (eight being land arches), the whole supported by fourteen pier arches, and a long abutment at either end, following the slope of the sides of the ravine; the springing line of the arches is about 33 feet 3 inches above the bed of the river. The total height, from the bed of the river to the top of the parapet, is about 54 feet 3 inches. The foundations of the piers of the seven principal arches are carried about 6 feet 9 inches below the bed. The piers and abutments are founded on the dark-coloured granite rock, of which the banks are composed, which being too coarse for architectural purposes, the superstructure has been built of a white granite, found in the vicinity. The stones are all of a large size, well squared and dressed, and closely jointed with fine white mortar. The piers, at their lower extremities, present faces of 5 feet, with returns or sides of 30 feet in extent. The chief peculiarity of the construction consists in each of these piers, at the height of about 13 feet from the bed of the river, being covered with a semicircular masonry of a pointed form, 14 feet in width; these arches having the same springing line as the semicircular arches, and intersecting the cylindrical intradoses of the semicircular arches; and thereby forming a series of grained railings, which, when viewed longitudinally, from under either of the abutment arches, produces an effect somewhat similar to that of the nave of a Gothic church.

Mr. R. W. Billings read a paper, descriptive of some peculiarities in the arrangement of the plan and in the construction of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Kettering, in Northamptonshire, and exhibited numerous diagrams in illustration thereof, and of the forms of the doors and windows, and the principles on which the tracery and ornaments had been designed. He likewise noticed the unusual height of the spire as compared with the body of the church, by which the importance of the latter (really of large dimensions) is much diminished; a circumstance not uncommon in the churches of this district.

NEW STREET TO THE LINKS.—On Friday week a meeting of the committee appointed to consider this subject was held in the Town-hall, when a lithographic sketch of the proposed street, from the design of Mr. Abernethy, civil engineer, was submitted to the meeting, and warmly approved of by all the gentlemen present. It is proposed by Mr. Abernethy that the approach to the Links shall commence at the south-east corner of Castle-street, from whence, by a series of steps and a terrace in front of the Barracks, the new road shall cross Commerce-street and the Canal, and run in a direct line to the Links. We were happy to see so numerous an attendance of gentlemen anxious to promote this very desirable improvement. It is admitted that our Links form a place of public resort and amusement for the extensive neighbourhood, perhaps, to be found in the neighbourhood of any large town in the kingdom; and nothing is wanting but a good road to render it available to all classes of the militia. We would, therefore, urge upon the committee the importance of immediate exertion to procure the necessary funds. If such a sum should be committed (as suggested by Mr. James Hadden, Jan.) to be obtained by subscription, from amongst his own circle of friends, to the extent of 100, the plan would speedily be carried into execution; and we would hope that, if the gentlemen who have undertaken this daily would make an effort to procure the requisite sum might be raised in a few weeks. The claims for the Links will come forward generally and generously.—*Aberdeen Herald.*